

From the canopy up high Down to the forest floor Are many little, living things To find when you explore.

Creatures living out their lives
Perhaps not seen before,
Crawling, climbing everywhere
On, say, six legs or more.

Let us go into the trees,
So shady, cool and nice
And meet the creepy, crawly things
These bugs in paradise.





Their guise is quite a clever trick When all is said and done, 'Cause who would like to eat a stick? Basically, no one.





Deadly is the ambush bug, Arms lined with gripping spines To grab and hold its insect prey All helpless while it dines

By sticking in its pointy beak And sucking what's inside Until there's just an empty shell, That's now unoccupied.





The jumping spider's biggest eyes
Are facing to the front
To judge the distance of its prey
And how far it must jump.

It doesn't build a spider web
To trap what it will eat.
It hunts more like a lion does,
With twice as many feet.

After living underground, Sometimes for many years, The cicada larva surfaces To change how it appears.

From its digging, crawling form To an adult that sings It makes a transformation Complete with four new wings.

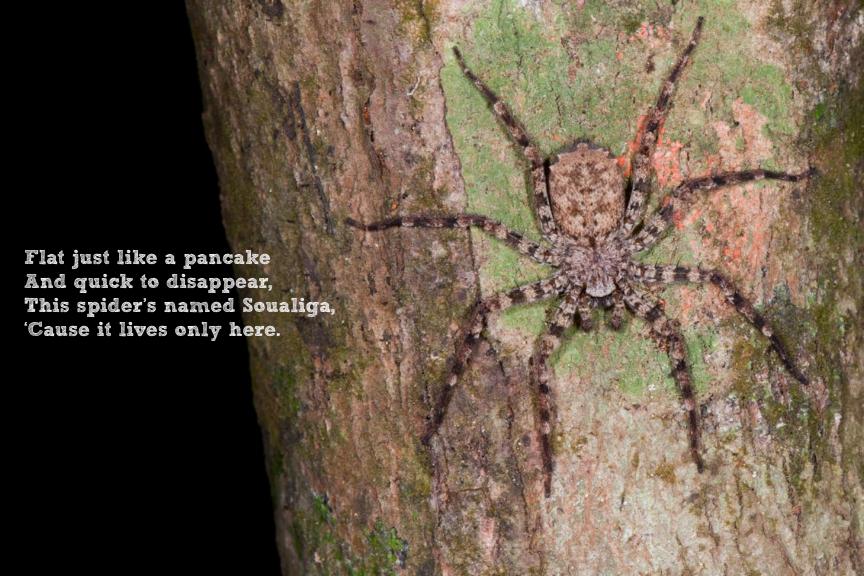
It leaves a bit of what it was Out drying in the sun The shell of what it used to be:

Its exoskeleton.

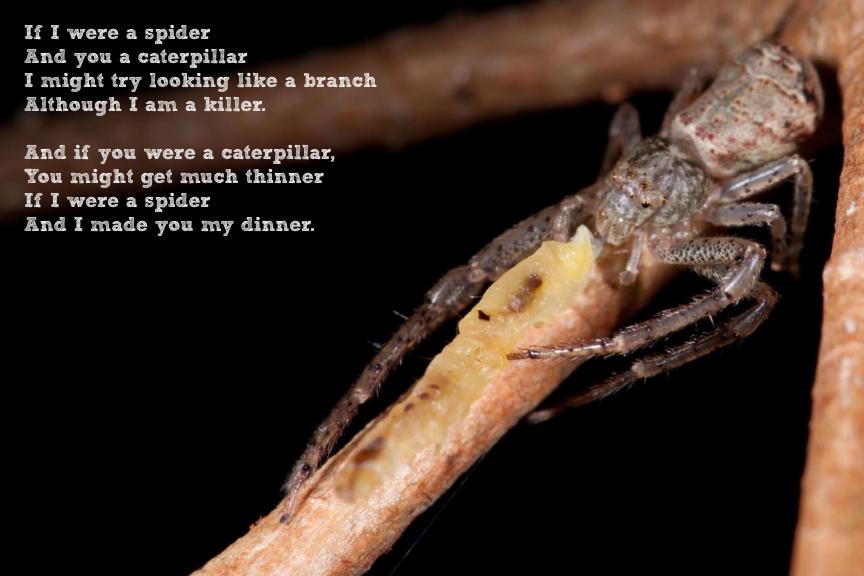














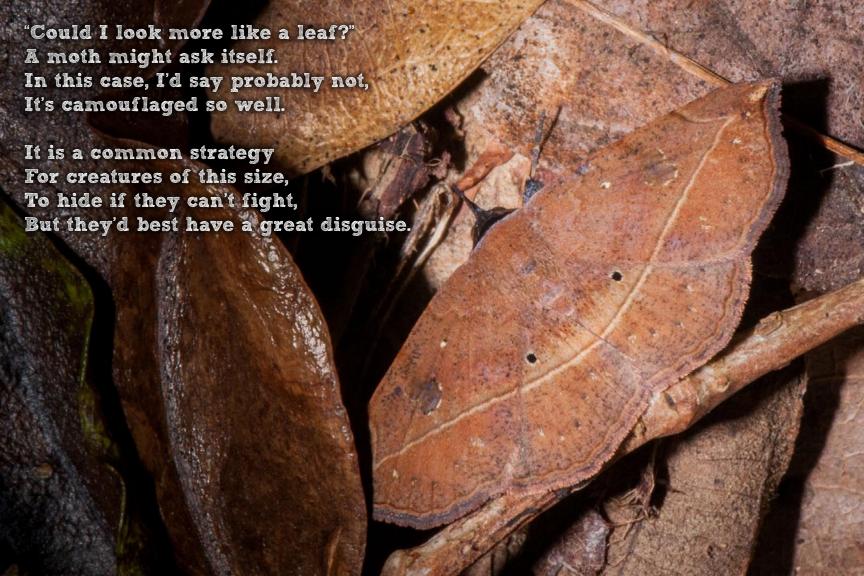








The tortoise bug looks like a jewel With glinting, golden skin. Its back is also like a shield, Protecting what's within. It holds its shell down to the leaf To which it tightly clings, So there's no space to get in there For ants or anything.



This butterfly I'm sure you've seen, Sometimes it's everywhere:
On the flowers, in the breeze,
A sight beyond compare.

Its name is the Great Southern White, Its numbers flow and ebb.
This one made its final flight Into a spider's web.



Come night, you'll hear the lullaby The snowy cricket sings-The gentle buzzing in the brush It makes by rubbing wings. For us, it's time for sleeping, And dreaming once or twice, About the creatures in the woods The bugs in paradise.



Birds & Bugs is a free, public Wildlife Discovery Event created by Les Fruits de Mer, where St. Martin residents and visitors of all ages can see and learn about the amazing birds and invertebrates living in the broadleaf forest. The event will include birding tours of the forest guided by experts, a bird banding education station by EPIC (Environmental Protection in the Caribbean), a bug discovery station, and local wildlife-themed art activities for children. Birds & Bugs 2015 is sponsored by Hotel L'Esplanade, Delta Petroleum, Buccaneer Beach Bar, St. Martin Voyages, Tri-Sport and Island Mattress.

Les Fruits de Mer is a nonprofit association based in St. Martin whose core mission is to raise awareness about nature, culture, and sport. The organization carries out this mission through publications, an education program, and special public outreach events that entertain, inspire, and inform. The Association is currently accepting new member and corporate benefactor member applications on its website, http://www.lesfruitsdemer.com.

